



Development Alternatives, Inc.



International Resources Group

**SUMMARY OF THE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE APRA PROJECT FOR ROMANIA
November 12, 2002
*MoWEP***

The Steering Committee meeting of the USAID-funded Romanian Project, *Agricultural Pollution Reduction Activity (APRA)*, took place on Tuesday, November 12, at the Ministry of Waters and Environmental Protection. This meeting was attended by representatives of the following ministries and institutions: MoWEP, MoAFF, NA „Apele Române”, EPI Calarsi, Agricultural Division Calarasi, and the APRA Project team. The meeting agenda and list of participants are attached to this summary.

Mr. Florin Stadiu, Secretary of State, MoWEP, opened the opening speech, thanking the APRA team and USAID for their support and acknowledging appreciation for the DESWAT project. The goal of the meeting was to present the APRA Work Plan, to discuss and debate it in the Steering Committee, in order to finalize it for submission to USAID.

Mr. Glen Anderson, APRA Project Manager, presented the Work Plan, followed by discussions and comments. Based on this presentation and the debates, several aspects were pointed out and clarified, as follows:

- APRA Project will last for 15 months (until December 30, 2003).
- A priority for the Ministry is the elaboration of norms and methodology for soil and water analysis to determine nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations. It is necessary to improve the national standards for testing in accordance with EU Nitrates Directive. The WB project does not address this issue but would benefit from this work if undertaken early in the APRA project.
- Counterparts for monitoring should be clarified and nominated at the local level. Overlap between the WB project should be avoided and resources for support of water and soil testing should not be redundant with resources provided by the WB.
- The county inventory will contain all pollution sources, including the industrial and other non-agricultural sources.
- Under Activity 2.1 – *Characterization of Pollution Sources and Impacts in Calarasi County*, the team should elaborate a model for collecting the needed information and data, that should (include and) complete what does not exist; to elaborate a questionnaire form/template (generalized for all data collection categories) as to collect the kind of necessary information at each county level (to be applicable for the entire country)
- There already exists a National Action Plan (for the EU Nitrates Directive implementation); APRA should elaborate an Action/Implementation Program (locally and detailed), for all areas that are vulnerable to nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. The program should provide a model methodology for developing local implementation programs in other counties with vulnerable areas.

- Implementation costs evaluation shall include the country cost for the Nitrates Directive implementation, costs for farmers and references to the financial mechanisms that may be used to support this implementation effort
- The project Subcontractors should be: ICIM, AquaProiect and ICPA (Institute of Research in Pedology and Agrochemistry), the last one being proposed in this meeting, because it represents a potential supplier of data regarding type, agrochemistry and quality of the soil, at the national level, having under its coordination all county offices of Studies in Pedology and Agrochemistry.
- The local project experts are selected by contractor's team, however MoWEP recommended the involvement of Mr. Iulian Mihnea, ISPIF (Institute of Studies and Design in Land Reclamation), in the project activities.
- The title of activity 3.1 has to be changed as follows: *Elaboration of Norms and Methodologies to determine the soil reserve nitrogen and phosphorus and test for these substances in surface and ground water.*
- One of the results of activity 3.2 – *Analysis of Options for Environmentally Friendly Agricultural Practices*, should be to publish the CGAP lists (both from WB and USAID Projects), as to make them known to all farmers.
- To include in the elaboration of the local action program, the local Public Administration, local institutions of MoWEP (EPI) and MoAFF (Agricultural Division - DGA) representatives, as well as from the subcontractors: ICPA, AquaProiect and ICIM.
- The monitoring of water quality and identification of vulnerable areas are activities done by Calarasi branch of NA „Apele Romane”, hereby named System of Water Management (SGA), and the monitoring of soil quality is done by the County Office of Studies in Pedology and Agrochemistry (OJSPA); a mobile lab (both for water and soil tests) will be financed and will be used by both institutions, but NA „Apele Romane” will be its owner; all results of these analyses, but also the environmental reports elaborated by OJSPA and SGA, will be also send to/ shared with EPI Calarasi
- As a suggestion, the mobile lab should have equipment both for *in situ* field analysis and for managing samples that will be analyzed in the laboratory.
- APRA should bring contributions to the identification of the vulnerable areas for nitrogen and/ or phosphorus in Calarasi county; EU deadline for identification of the vulnerable areas at the entire country is 2003.
- The two Projects (on agricultural pollution), WB and USAID, have to coordinate their efforts in public awareness.
- APRA will provide suggestions regarding the content of campaigns and for the methodology on organizing public awareness campaigns, while the WB will support the actual delivery of public awareness campaigns.
- There were two proposals for the Training Center location in Calarasi: Agricultural High School and Agency of Consulting in Agriculture; the decision will be taken after visiting these two places
- Activity 3.5 – *Study Tour in US* is optional; it will be organized only if needed, if there is a demand for it and depends on the available financial resources
- At the end of each Work Plan phase, reports will be elaborated (3 reports in total) and submitted for discussion to the Interministerial Committee of Agricultural Pollution Control.
- The main contact persons for the cooperating institutions are: Petre Serban for NA „Apele Romane”, Valeriu Rosioara for MoWEP, Alexandru Radulescu for MoAFF, and Ion Ciulinaru for Agricultural Division Calarasi; focal points have to be nominated for the OJSPA and SGA Calarasi.
- All project materials and reports will be send to each Steering Committee member

- Some phrases in the Work Plan have to be reformulated so as not to create confusion that there are overlaps with the WB Project.
- It is recommended to have an information and documentation exchange between the two projects in order to avoid the overlaps.
- MoWEP will deliver copies of Ministerial Order and Government Decision to APRA, that are related to the National Implementation Plan for the EU Nitrates Directive.

Annex 1

Steering Committee Meeting

“Agricultural Pollution Reduction in Romania”

AGENDA

November 12, 2002

12:00 Mr. FLORIN STADIU, Secretary of State, MoWEP, Water Division

- *Opening speech*
- *Overview of the meeting goals*

12:10 Mr. GLEN ANDERSON, Project Manager

- *Presentation of the APRA Work Plan*

12:40 Questions, Discussions

13:20 Conclusions

13:30 Meeting Resolution

Annex 2

APRA **Steering Committee Meeting**

MoWEP – November 12 , 2002

Participants List

No.	AFFILIATION	REPRESENTATIVE	POSITION
1.	MoWEP – Water Division	Florin Stadiu	Secretary of State
2.	MoWEP - APCP	Valentin Alexandrescu	Director
3.	MoWEP – General Directorate of Water Resources Management	Gheorghe Constantin	Director
4.	MoAFF – Office of Soil Improvement	Alexandru Radulescu	Chief of office
5.	National Administration „Apele Romane”	Petre Serban	Director
6.	Environmental Protection Inspectorate Calarasi	Ion Ciofu	Chief Inspector
7.	MoWEP - DPPI	Liliana Chirila	Advisor
8.	MoWEP	Valeriu Rosioara	Advisor
9.	MoAFF – Zootechnical Directorate	Gabriela Dinca	Advisor
10.	Agricultural Directorate Calarasi	Adela Nica	Chief of Office
11.	IRG/ APRA	Glen Anderson	Project Manager
12.	DAI/ APRA	Vladimir Rojanschi	Local Team Leader
13.	DAI/ APRA	Rodica Stefanescu	Project Administrator
14.	IRG	Carmen Frunza	Assistant
15.	DAI	Constantina Apostol	Assistant
16.	-	Radu Popesteanu	Interpreter